

Huntingdon
Urban District Council



REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Huntingdon

For the Year 1913

BY

HERBERT LUCAS, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,


Medical Officer of Health.



HUNTINGDON ;

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1914



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TO THE
HUNTINGDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



GENTLEMEN,

The Borough of Huntingdon is situate on the north bank of the river Ouse, and is composed of a long street a mile in length, running in a northerly direction at right angles to the river, several side streets turn off from the main street and there are many courts and alleys; the suburb of Newtown is about half-a-mile from the High Street in an easterly direction.

The Borough is more or less surrounded by Commons. The area in acres is 976, the soil is gravel. Population 4,003.

There are three Motor Body Factories and two Breweries in the Borough.

House accommodation is of a mixed character, that for the working classes is yearly improving, the old thatched houses are disappearing and more modern ones are taking their places.

There is a shortage of houses for the Industrial classes.

There is plenty of air space around the dwelling-houses, the surroundings are fairly good. There is much improvement in the gravelling and paving of the yards, but some of them are still in an unsatisfactory condition.

Poor Law medical relief is not much utilized, but considerable advantage is taken of medical relief both for in and out door patients from the County Hospital.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply of the Borough is obtained from the gravel of the Ouse valley, and is collected by pipes laid in the gravel bed and conveyed into a well, from which it is pumped into a reservoir and distributed over the town by gravitation.

There is also a high pressure service to supply some of the houses that stand on high levels. The supply to the town generally is constant.

The gathering ground in which the pipes are laid is far removed from any means of contamination from sewage pollution or from the soakage of manurial products.

A few wells remain in the town, two samples of water were analysed and found unfit for drinking purposes, the wells were closed and the town supply laid on.

Rivers and Streams.

The sewers empty themselves into the river, but the solid matter is kept back by intercepting tanks. A few houses drain direct into the river.

Sewerage and Drainage.

There is a complete system of sewerage and drainage, Intercepting tanks are now in working order near the outlets of the sewers, and are doing good service. The drains are well ventilated, but inspection of the ventilators is a matter of great importance and should be well looked after. The drains are regularly flushed by means of a flushing cart.

There are 533 water closets with flushing and 486 hand flushed closets, also 26 earth closets in the Borough emptied by the scavengers.

Scavenging.

House refuse is regularly removed by your Scavengers, and is carted out of the Borough to a field at Great Stukeley. I should like to see sanitary dust bins in more general use, both for the good of the people and the saving of labour of your scavengers.

Inspections.

In December last I made a systematic inspection of the whole district accompanied by your Inspector of Nuisances. I have made frequent inspections of localities where infectious cases have arisen and where nuisances have existed, and in the latter cases your Inspector has given orders for my instructions to be carried out.

Places over which the Council has Supervision.

There are two Lodging Houses in the Borough not registered, but regularly inspected by the Inspector of Nuisances. *Factories, Workshops, Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses all above ground, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops* are all regularly inspected.

Schools.

The Schools are in good sanitary condition and water is supplied from the Town Water Supply.

The Medical Examination of School Children is carried out by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Milk Supply.

The supply of milk to the Borough is good. Two samples were sent for analysis during the year. Both were genuine. Two bovine animals were slaughtered during the year, on account of suspected tubercular disease. There is no Veterinary Inspector of Cows.

Food Supply.

One Sample of Rice, one of Cheese, one of Lard, one of Tea, one of Flour, one of Blanc-mange powder, one of Coffee, one of Mustard, two of Milk, were sent for analysis, all of them were genuine. Ten Samples of Butter were also sent, eight were genuine, and two consisted entirely of margarine.

No Tubercular or diseased Meat was condemned.

Housing.

There is a scarcity of houses for the working classes.

Several dwelling-houses were reported to the Local Authority with a view to making closing orders; in all these cases the defects were remedied, with the exception of four houses which were closed.

Four new houses were built during the year.

Infectious and other Diseases.

Twenty-three cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year. One of Diphtheria, two of Erysipelas, nine of Scarlet Fever, six of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and five of other forms of Tuberculosis, of these (Tuberculosis cases) seven did not belong to the district.

Diphtheria.

One case was notified, insanitary surroundings existed and were remedied.

Scarlet Fever.

Nine cases were notified, of these four were imported cases. They were all removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Erysipelas.

Two cases occurred, no definite cause could be ascertained.

Isolation Hospital.

There is an Isolation Hospital, which I regret to say is still shared by St. Ives Rural and Urban Districts. I should like to see a combination of the parishes of Hartford, Brampton, and Great Stukeley in the Hunts. Rural District, so that we could protect our own immediate neighbourhood, instead of importing cases of Infectious Diseases from a distance.

As the Godmanchester Urban Council have taken no steps to provide an Isolation Hospital, I hope they may be induced to combine with Huntingdon and the Rural Districts.

The Small Pox Hospital is ready for use at a few hours' notice.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

Notification of Infectious Diseases has been in force since the first passing of the Act.

Antitoxin.

Antitoxin is kept at the Police Station, and can be obtained for immediate use.

Disinfection.

There is an excellent disinfecting apparatus at the Isolation Hospital, which can be used for the disinfection of clothes and bedding from the Borough. Formalin is used generally for disinfecting the houses.

Tuberculosis.

Four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis belonging to the district were notified. The patients were visited and instructed as to mode of procedure. Spitting Flasks are provided when required. One of these cases is now in a Sanatorium at Ipswich. In cases of death, the houses are disinfected when practicable. There is no Sanatorium or dispensary treatment available at present in the neighbourhood.

Cancer.

Six deaths from Cancer were registered.

Births and Deaths.

The corrected births of children numbered 74, 34 boys and 40 girls, making an average of 18.4 per 1000 persons living.

The deaths of 87 persons were registered in the district. Of these 31 were non-residents, making the total number of deaths of residents 56, and to these, four inward transfers are added, one of these deaths occurring in the Three Counties Asylum, making the total 60 deaths, an average of 14.9 per 1000 persons living.

Infantile Mortality.

Six deaths occurred under one year of age.

Notification of Births Act is not in force.

Public Mortuary.

A Public Mortuary is provided.

I append Reports of Factories and Workshops and the Reports of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Brown.

Table 1. Vital Statistics.

- „ 2. Of Infectious Diseases Notified.
- „ 3. Of Mortality.
- „ 4, Infantile Mortality.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT LUCAS,

*Medical Officer of Health,
Huntingdon Urban District Council.*

HUNTINGDON,

February 26th, 1914.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Number of Inspections made	...	...	120
Notices given (informal)	...	...	63
Privy Urinal and Ashpits inspected, and Nuisances Abated	...	...	20
Drains blocked, repaired and remedied	...	...	32
Houses Overcrowded	...	...	3
Offensive Accumulations abated	...	...	5
Number of Lodging Houses registered	...	...	0
Ditto Inspections	...	...	5
Licensed Slaughter Houses	...	...	8
Inspections Ditto	...	...	6
Houses affected with Infectious Diseases and Disinfected	...	...	9

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING REPORT.

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	120
Ditto Ditto with Medical Officer of Health	...	...	Several
Number of Houses in which defects were found	...	...	17
Number of Houses in which defects were rectified without recourse to Closing Orders	...	...	17
Number of Representations to Local Authority with a view to making of Closing Orders	...	...	4
Number of Closing Orders made	...	...	4
Number of Houses after which the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state of habitation	...	...	0
Number of Houses Closed	...	...	5
Ditto demolished	...	...	0

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

Number in District	...	...	6
Ditto Registered	...	...	6
Ditto Inspections	...	Periodically	
Ditto ditto during milking	...	...	1

Regulations have been adopted.

FRED BROWN,
Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE 1.—HUNTINGDON URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	NETT.		Number.	Rate.*	of Non-Residents Registered in the District.	of Residents Registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.*					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.*
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1908	4261		84	19·7	90	21·1	36	2	7		56	13·1
1909	4261		71	16·8	100	23·4	42	0	9		56	13·1
1910	4261		78	18·3	86	20·1	34	2	5		54	12·6
1911	4003	78	78	19·4	81	20·2	34	10	4	51·2	57	14·2
1912	4003	67	68	16·9	89	22·4	35	1	10	68·0	55	13·7
1913	4003	75	74	18·4	87	21·7	31	4	6	56·5	60	14·9

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated Population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of Area covered by water.)	976	Total population at all ages ...			4003.	
		Number of Inhabited Houses ...				1020.
		Average number of persons per house ...					3·9.
					At Census of 1911.	

TABLE II.—HUNTINGDON URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							Total Cases removed to Hospital,
	At Ages +—Years.							
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup	1			1				
Erysipelas	2					1	1	
Scarlet Fever	9		1	3	4	1		9
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6					5	1	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5		1	1	1	1	1	
TOTALS	23		2	5	5	8	3	9

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Near Cemetery, Huntingdon.

Total available beds, 30.

SMALL POX HOSPITAL.—Hartford.

SANATORIA, &c.—None.

TABLE III. HUNTINGDON URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Deaths during the Year, 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the district.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
		All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and up-wards.	
1.		2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
All Causes	Certified ...	59									
	Uncertified	1									
Scarlet Fever.....		1					1				1
Diphtheria and Croup											1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)											2
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....											2
Cancer, Malignant Disease		6							2	4	6
Organic Heart Disease		4						1	1	2	4
Bronchitis		5								5	4
Pneumonia (all forms)		1								1	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs		2						2			1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis											1
Cirrhosis of Liver.....		1							1		1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth		5	5								1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...		2			1			1			4
Suicide		2						1	1		
Other Defined Diseases		31	1	2		1		5	2	20	19
All causes.....		60	6	2	1	1	1	10	7	32	50

TABLE IV.—BOROUGH OF HUNTINGDON.
 INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1913.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.		1-2 Weeks.		2-3 Weeks.		3-4 Weeks.		Total under 4 weeks.		1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes.	} Causes.	Certified	...	3					3		2	1			6
		Uncertified	...												
Premature Birth			...	3							2				5
Other Causes			...									1			1
				3					3		2	1			6

Nett Births in the year	{	Legitimate	...	69	Nett Deaths in the year of	{	Legitimate	...	6
		Illegitimate	...	5			Illegitimate	...	0

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1913 for the
BOROUGH OF HUNTINGDON,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901 in connection with
Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—Inspections.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	3	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	3	...	...
Workplaces ... ..	...	...	...
Homeworkers' Premises ...	...	...	...
Total ...	6	...	...

2.—Defects Found.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Sanitary Accommodation Insufficient	1	0	...	Nil.
Total	1	0	...	Nil.

3. Home Work—Nil.

4. Registered Workshops—32.

5. Other Matters—Nil.

**Ten Years Table of Deaths from Cancer
and Tubercular Disease.**

Year.	Cancer.	Phthisis and Tubercular Disease.
1904	5	3
1905	2	4
1906	10	8
1907	2	4
1908	4	6
1909	4	4
1910	6	9
1911	3	3
1912	11	3
1913	6	0
	53	44